

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: SB68

Patron: Diggs

Bill Title: Historic landmarks; designating or nominating, notice requirements.

Bill Summary: Removes the requirements for the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) to provide written notice to an owner or his agent of property abutting or immediately across the street or road from property proposed to be designated or nominated as a historic landmark. The bill also changes the timeframe in which the department must publish notice of the public hearing on such designation in a newspaper having general circulation in the locality from once a week for two successive weeks to at least seven and not more than 30 days prior to the date of the hearing.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: This bill involves DHR; however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis section below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that DHR can absorb any costs associated with the implementation of this bill and may realize minimal savings.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. The current requirements for historic landmark designation include two published public notices and a public hearing for historic landmark district designations that are open to property owners and the public. In addition, owners of property within the proposed historic district receive direct written notice of pending designation from DHR and are allowed to comment on the designation process.

DHR estimates that on average, current requirements have an expenditure impact to DHR of between \$1,000 and \$3,000 each year. In 2024, DHR mailed 1,356 adjacent owner notification letters, which required 68 hours of staff time and \$2,160 in labor, material and postage. In 2025, DHR mailed 175 owner notification letters and 581 adjacent owner notification letters requiring approximately 30 hours of staff time and \$1,000 in labor, materials, and postage. DHR estimates that costs in FY 2026 could be approximately \$3,000 due to several large designations anticipated to occur during the current fiscal year. One such designation involves one known property with one owner and 1,036 adjacent owners. DHR estimates that providing direct notice to these 1,036 adjacent property owners will require 51 hours of staff time and \$1,665 in labor, materials, and postage.

Other: None.